

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor West Side Community Health Services for their 35 years of dedicated service ensuring the best quality health care for St. Paul's bilingual and bicultural communities.

On behalf of the Twin Cities and the citizens of Minnesota, I wish to congratulate West Side Community Health Services for their work providing a progressive health care model that emphasizes education, prevention, and integrated services. These outstanding services are provided with respect for the cultures of the patients they serve. For more than a generation, West Side Community Health Services has been the voice for Latino, Hmong, adolescent, immigrant, and low income communities. West Side Community Health Services can be proud of their outreach to educate patients and family members where health care knowledge is needed most: in urban neighborhoods, schools, areas of public housing and homeless shelters.

In 1969, West Side Community Health Services was established when a group of volunteers saw the need for bilingual health care for Spanish speaking residents. Located in the basement of St. Michael's Church, volunteers served between six and seven patients a day. Since then, West Side Community Health Services has flourished; incorporating its first clinic servicing 1,900 people in 1972, adding dental services in 1978, health care for the homeless in 1987 and two public housing clinics in 1993. In 2000, West Side Community Health Services achieved accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

In its 35 years, West Side Community Health Services has increased the number of patients served to over 35,000. In 2006, 84 percent of their patients were from Asian, African American, American Indian or Latino communities; eighty-five percent had incomes less than \$41,000 for a family of four, and half did not have health insurance. The 250 people who work at West Side Community Health Services facilitate access to health care by breaking down barriers related to trust, cost, location, culture, and language. In doing so West Side Community Health Services provides much needed care to vulnerable members of the community—serving them with the compassion, respect and quality health care they deserve.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the founders of West Side Community Health Services, its staff, board members, and volunteers committed to educating and improving the health of the community, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

recognizing the 35th anniversary of West Side Community Health Services.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY WOOLFORK

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dorothy Woolfork, of Minnesota, a true citizen-servant who never hesitated to put the needs of the community above her own. While I regret to report the recent passing of Dorothy Woolfork at the age of 91, I am grateful for her lifelong service to the community and I am confident that her ideals will inspire future generations of community volunteers.

A native of Bradley, Arkansas, Dorothy came to Minnesota in 1939 with the hope of finding work. Not only did Dorothy find work in Minneapolis, she found a new life. After graduating from cosmetology school, she opened her own business, solidifying her commitment to the growth of the community.

Dorothy's 30-plus year career in political and community activism began in 1962 when she attended her first precinct caucus meeting. From that point on, her presence in the community was pervasive. Her tireless work in the community did not go unnoticed. Her efforts were recognized by the Governor of Minnesota and the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis by a joint proclamation declaring June 17, 1990 as "Dorothy Woolfork Appreciation Day."

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to all those surviving Dorothy Woolfork and to the community she worked for, the community she loved. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a model citizen who devoted herself to the City of Minneapolis. Ms. Woolfork, on behalf of the citizens of the 5th District, I thank you for your lifetime of service.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLEN ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the 85th anniversary of the Glen Rock Public Library in Bergen County, New Jersey. On June 9, 1922, the library first opened its doors in a small store on the town's main street. It is now a cornerstone of the community where people come to read and learn, meet and discuss. It is where so much of the town business is conducted.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the Library, a group of committed volunteers who have helped to make the library one of the Borough's most valuable assets. With their help and the help of a volunteer Board of Trustees, Glen Rock has reached the distinction of having one of the highest circulation figures of the more than 70 libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System. In fact, 85 percent of the Borough's 11,546 residents have library cards.

The Glen Rock Public Library is not just a place where people come to check out books; it is where people come to build their community. It is an important part of what makes Glen Rock such an outstanding place to live, work, and raise a family. I commend the staff and volunteers who toil endlessly, yet lovingly for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the people of the Borough of Glen Rock.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE REVISION AND EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2761) to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes;

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) Revision and Extension, as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. This bill necessarily reauthorizes TRIA for 15 years—through 2022. At its essence, TRIA provides a Federal backstop to the insurance industry by providing compensation for a portion of insured losses resulting from acts certified by the Federal government as acts of terrorism. Importantly, TRIA has no cost to the taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack. This program is not an ongoing subsidy to the insurance industry but, instead, an incident-based program that will help to ensure the continuity of our livelihoods and commerce in the wake of a terrorist incident in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, history has shown that Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct acts of terror against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm upon this country. The Congressional Research Service estimated that insured losses from the attacks on the World Trade Center total around \$32 billion. This bill helps build resiliency in our country to respond to the known objectives of our adversaries.

As the Committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), our Committee works diligently to ensure that DHS

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

effectively executes and manages its duties. Since its inception, there has been an understandable focus on the protection of the United States against acts of terror. However, as demonstrated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I do not believe that there has been an adequate focus on recovering from the aftermath of a catastrophic incident by the Department. I believe that the extension of TRIA demonstrates our nation's necessary commitment to planning for the recovery and resumption of economic activity following an act of terrorism. Whereas we can never take our eyes off of protection and prevention, we must show a commitment to resiliency in the wake of an incident. This bill will help our nation begin its climb back to normality should we ever again be struck on our shores by terrorists.

Furthermore, the revision and extension of TRIA represents a vital element of homeland security, particularly in its protection of critical infrastructure: the effective cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Committee on Homeland Security has focused extensively on this necessary partnership and the homeland security solutions that can be achieved by both sectors working together. This necessary partnership will be essential to the successful stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis, should one occur.

Last year, I expressed my concern with the TRIA not requiring insurers to offer coverage from acts of nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological (NBCR) terrorism. Studies by numerous entities concluded that the risk of NBCR terrorism is essentially uninsurable unless there is a Federal government backstop. I am pleased that this legislation includes acts of NBCR terrorism in TRIA and, therefore, provides that federal backstop. This provision will hopefully encourage efforts by the insurance industry while providing it with the necessary support that it needs.

I am pleased that the bill incorporates the Secretary of DHS, especially relating to the certification of NBCR terrorism. It says that where a certified act of terrorism is carried out by means of an NBCR weapon or instrumentality, the Secretary of the Treasury will certify that act as an act of NBCR terrorism. Importantly, if a certified act of terrorism involves any other "weapon or instrumentality," then the Secretary of the Treasury will consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security, among other officials, to determine whether the act of terrorism meets the definition of NBCR terrorism, as defined by the bill. This language recognizes the ever-changing threat we face as well as the expertise and sophistication of DHS.

It is important that this extension of TRIA will be for 15 years. This long-term extension will enhance economic stability—for example, by bringing more stability to the real estate and construction industries so that they can move forward with large-scale building projects in areas considered at high risk for terrorism. After all, TRIA was enacted in 2002 in an attempt to stabilize the economy that was badly disrupted by the events of 9/11 and to spur commercial development, as well as to prevent an industry-wide catastrophe in the event of another terrorist attack. This 15-year extension will create the predictability and confidence that the private sector needs to make investments that help our national economy.

This legislation will help our country and its industry spur economic development and, importantly, will provide the necessary economic security in the aftermath of a terrorist event to get our country moving as quickly as possible.

In closing, let me thank my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee for their leadership on this legislation, especially my colleagues Chairman FRANK as well as Representative CAROLYN MALONEY of New York.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST ALUN HOWELLS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice of Army Specialist Alun R. Howells of Parlin, Colorado.

On August 13, Specialist Howells died from wounds he suffered while on a combat mission in Baghdad. Specialist Howells was assigned to E Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Driven by his passion for the outdoors, Alun Howells spent much of his life exploring Colorado's Rocky Mountain terrain. After joining the Army in 2006, he turned his passion toward a distinguished military career. Among his numerous honors, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service to our country.

Alun Howells will be missed by those who knew and loved him, and our hearts go out to his family and friends.

Thank you for this opportunity to recognize and honor one of Colorado's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 18, 2007 and missed rollcall votes 870, 871, and 872. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the three measures.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the

Expanding American Homeownership Act and commend the Democratic leadership, Chairman FRANK, and Chairman WATERS for their commitment to increasing access to affordable housing.

Our country is currently in the middle of a subprime mortgage crisis. In my congressional district alone, there are 796 homes involved in foreclosure right now. The University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs report, Subprime Lending and Foreclosure in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, speculates that the problem of foreclosures starts with predatory lending practices that are aimed at removing equity from homes through refinancing a home multiple times.

H.R. 1852 takes an important step to prevent American families from ever having to turn to a predatory lender by providing them with a reliable source for affordable mortgage loans. This legislation revitalizes and reforms the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, enabling it to serve more subprime borrowers, offer refinancing to families struggling to make mortgage payments, and create additional affordable rental housing.

This legislation also authorizes more than double the current funding level for housing counseling to help subprime home buyers, higher risk borrowers who fall behind on their mortgage payments, and those who need additional guidance in establishing a plan for purchasing their home.

We must do more to ensure that all individuals and families have safe and stable housing. For this reason, the Expanding American Homeownership Act authorizes up to \$300 million a year for an affordable housing trust fund, which will be financed by excess profits, resulting from the expansion of FHA's loan offerings.

H.R. 1852 enables the FHA to preserve and expand its mission of helping potential first-time home buyers obtain affordable mortgages. I urge my colleagues to join me in helping more families achieve the American dream of home ownership by voting for this bill.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM W. SMITH, III

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Reverend William W. Smith, III, of Minnesota, a selfless servant who was committed to his faith, family and the struggle for civil rights and social justice. While I regret to report the recent passing of Rev. Smith at the age of 69, I am grateful for his spirit of equality and inclusiveness which will continue to live on in the city of Minneapolis and beyond.

Rev. Smith's relationship with Minneapolis began over 50 years ago when he was stationed in the city while serving as an airman in the United States Air Force. Following his tour of duty, Smith returned to Minneapolis, where he took on the important work of mentoring and empowering children, youth, families and the elderly as a staffer at the Phillis Wheatley Community Center. Smith would later go on to serve as a leader at the Twin Cities Opportunities Industrial Center.

Rev. Smith was a visionary who knew that Minneapolis could become a place of equal opportunity for all people regardless of racial or ethnic differences. During the turbulent 1960s, Smith worked vigorously to advance the cause of the civil rights movement in Minneapolis. He served as a local facilitator working with community leaders to set into action the teachings of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Smith's efforts ultimately contributed to the creation of human rights commissions in Minneapolis and throughout the state of Minnesota. Smith also helped guide local social action groups such as the Minneapolis Urban League and the Black Unity and Futurism Youth Organization of Minneapolis.

Recognizing the important role which unions play in protecting workers rights, Smith fought vigorously to gain union membership for African American workers. Once that battle was won, Smith accepted the challenge of becoming a union organizer, working for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO in New Orleans, Atlanta and Tulsa.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Rev. Smith: his daughter, his sons, former wife, and the community he worked for, the community he loved. It is an honor to stand in recognition of the memory and life of a man who gave so much of himself to Minneapolis yet demanded so little in return. Reverend Smith, today we thank you.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3580, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007. This bill necessarily reauthorizes the Prescription Drug User Fee Program, the Medical Device User Fee Program, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA, authority to grant an additional 6 months marketing exclusivity to a manufacturer of a drug in return for FDA requested pediatric use, for 5 years, through 2012. The act also addresses a variety of other issues of importance to the FDA and to the Nation regarding pediatric medical device safety and improvement, research equity, and pharmaceuticals, a foundation for the FDA, better ways to deal with potential conflicts of interest, clinical trial databases, and measures to increase the post-market safety of drugs. All of these issues are important, but I believe that one of the most important sections of the bill regards additional steps to ensure the safety of our Nation's food.

Mr. Speaker, today we live in a global community, exchanging goods and services with countries around the world. Every country is different, and possesses differing standards, quality assurance, public health infrastructures, safety testing capacity, and desire and ability to secure shipments and distribution systems. Additionally, each must deal with a unique set of threats—naturally caused and intentionally generated. Much of the food on America's dinner tables comes from beyond our borders, and as we all know, despite the

best efforts of a small number of dedicated personnel, much of that food comes into the country without being inspected. Also, whether the food comes from outside or inside the United States, the distribution systems are largely unsecured. This legislation is a tremendous step forward—increasing inspections, improving research, and giving FDA the necessary authorities to inspect, trace, quarantine, and recall certain imported food to ensure safety.

Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations have indicated the desire to use agroterrorism means to attack our food supply. There is also increasing evidence to indicate that these organizations have been recruiting personnel with the scientific and technical know-how to accomplish these means. Additionally, over the past few decades, we have seen cases in the United States of intentional tampering of over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and controlled substances, resulting in illness and death throughout the country.

As the committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, the Committee on Homeland Security works diligently to ensure that DHS effectively executes and manages its duties, and where appropriate, ensures that DHS works collaboratively with other Federal agencies. DHS, through Immigration and Customs Enforcement, often partners with FDA to investigate food and drug tampering and contamination cases. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the United States Coast Guard, also have roles in interdicting and inspecting contaminated shipments as they cross borders and seas into the country. I am pleased that this legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, HHS, to notify the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security when an HHS entity believes food has been adulterated. Information-sharing is critical to effective, timely response to threats and a more secure homeland.

This legislation addresses a number of important aspects regarding food and drug safety and security. Actions we take now to better secure our food and drugs against contamination, adulteration, and terrorism will add to our overall homeland and transnational security.

I encourage my colleagues to pass this legislation with strong bipartisan support.

COMMENDING THE TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVICE OF EAST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOLS STUDENT JOEY RIZZOLO

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend a seventh grade student at East Brook Middle School in Paramus, NJ, for demonstrating a tremendous commitment to his community with exuberance and spirit. At his tender young age, Joey Rizzolo has already offered more of an example of public service for America than many adults.

Under the tutelage of their teacher, Jane Cosco, Joey Rizzolo and his fellow students take part in a service-learning project called Operation Goody Bag. For the past 3 years,

students at East Brook Middle School have decorated lunch bags; stuffed them with letters, poems, candy, and other such items; and shipped them to local first responders and service members overseas. Fifty thousand packages have been shipped already and each one is sure to bring a smile to the face of its recipient.

As an outgrowth of that effort, Operation Goody Bag decided to participate in the Department of Defense's America Supports You program and the annual Freedom Walk. This year, Joey, as the Paramus Freedom Walk chairman and his fellow students took to the streets with about 400 local citizens to show their support for the men and women serving in the military and for their families.

I was proud to join Joey and his fellow students for this special event. From their homes in Paramus, these students had a front row seat to the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11. Many of their family members and neighbors were there at the World Trade Center that day or were amongst the first responders who rushed into Manhattan to help in the hours and days and weeks that followed. These students approach their work with poise and grace, dedication and commitment. And Joey Rizzolo organized and led this first annual walk as if he'd been doing it for a lifetime.

It was an honor to stand with these students earlier this month to commemorate the sixth anniversary of September 11 and it is an honor to represent these students, their teacher, and their families in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JASON LAFLEUR

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice of CPL Jason K. LaFleur of Ignacio, Colorado.

On August 4th, Corporal LaFleur was killed while on patrol during combat operations south of Baghdad. Corporal LaFleur was a member of the Army's 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Ft. Richardson, Alaska.

Jason LaFleur was an accomplished scholar, athlete, and musician. His family and friends watched with pride as his list of accomplishments grew during his service in the United States Army.

Corporal LaFleur earned many of the Army's distinguished honors, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. In doing so, he has earned the respect not only of his community, but of a proud State and a grateful Nation as well.

Thank you for this opportunity to recognize and honor one of Colorado's fallen heroes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 17, 2007

and missed Rollcall votes 867, 868, and 869. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for each of the three measures.

HONORING CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 25th anniversary of Cream City Foundation. Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation serves as the leading foundation to mobilize philanthropic resources, build allied coalitions, effect positive change, and advance the dignity, worth, and health of every LGBT person in Southeastern Wisconsin.

This vision is realized through the organization's mission of building a strong foundation and infrastructure in the Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT community by distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people.

On the evening of September 22, the community will gather at the beautiful Milwaukee City Hall to note the incredible work of this vibrant foundation. The programs and interests that make up the work of Cream City Foundation are driven by a belief that philanthropy has an immense influence on creating long-lasting social change in our communities. Leadership from the LGBT community and our allies has been essential in bringing about that social change. We've come a long way, but our work is far from over. Despite all of our accomplishments over the years, homophobia is still all too pervasive.

Yet, with the continued help of Cream City Foundation, and the partnership of so many groups and individuals working in the community, there is no limit to what can be achieved in the years to come. These are historic times for the LGBT community. As we work together to build a community of acceptance and inclusion, Cream City Foundation will continue to lead the way.

It is fitting and appropriate that in the same year as the State of Wisconsin celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Nation's first Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act we take time to congratulate Cream City Foundation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. Your efforts are truly changing the world. I'm delighted to join with all of Wisconsin's citizens in saluting Cream City Foundation.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from South Louisiana.

On September 22, 2007 a group of 97 veterans and their guardians will fly to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these veterans from my home state of Louisiana to

visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight free of charge. During their visit, they will visit Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II Memorial. For many, this will be their first and only opportunity to see these sights dedicated to the great service they have provided for our nation.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their unselfish service.

ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1657, the Science and Technology Scholarship Program. H.R. 1657 will establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. I support H.R. 1657 because it allows more students the opportunity to pursue careers in fields that are vital in preserving our world, and will further enhance the knowledge base of our country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage more of our students to enter the meteorology and climatology fields. The young minds of this country are our greatest asset, and I support the effort today to encourage innovation, creative thinking, and academic competitiveness. I am confident we will reap major returns on this program long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 1657 because it will provide for the recruitment and preparation of students for careers in the National Weather Service and in Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. The legislation specifies a competitive program to select and award scholarships on the basis of academic merit, with consideration given to financial need and the goal of promoting the participation of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act. Individuals selected under the program agree to serve as full-time employees of NOAA, for a brief period in positions for which individuals are qualified.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Science Committee and a strong supporter of higher education, I have been a champion of equipping young minds with the technological and scientific knowledge necessary to compete in a globalized economy. Further, within the context of globalization, I strongly believe that this country's ability to achieve and maintain a high standard of living is dependent on the extent to which it can harness science and technology. Thus, in order to enhance the international competitiveness of the country, it is therefore critical for us to promote and support students pursuing careers in meteorology, climatology and atmospheric research.

For these reasons, I am proud to support H.R. 1657 and urge my colleagues to join me.

AMERICAN HERO FINALLY RECOGNIZED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's never too late to say thank you and recognize a hero of our Armed Forces even if it is 62 years later. I had the opportunity to do this when I recently met William Oliver Sievertson, of Kingwood, Texas.

Sievertson served in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1945 during World War II and fought against the Japanese in the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill in Okinawa, Japan. This battle included some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Theater in which his division, the Sixth Marine Division Reinforced, suffered 2,662 casualties.

According to Mr. James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy in 1945, "Units of the division withstood overwhelming artillery and mortar barrages, repulsed furious counter-attacks and staunchly pushed over the rocky terrain to reduce almost impregnable defenses and captured Sugar Loaf Hill."

Sievertson was wounded during this battle on May 19, 1945 and received the Purple Heart. After recovering in a Navy hospital in Guam, he returned to his unit and participated in the occupation of Japan after its surrender to the United States.

Many years later as a civilian, Sievertson learned from the West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars Newsletter that his division had been given a Presidential Unit Citation from President Harry S. Truman. The article described how another Marine had served in the same division during the same time period and had received the award from his U.S. Senator decades later. This inspired Sievertson to contact his Congressman to see if he qualified for the award also.

After some inquiries by my staff, we learned that Sievertson did indeed qualify for the citation and was long overdue to receive it. After 62 years, on August 20, 2007, I had the pleasure of personally awarding Mr. Sievertson the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. Along with his wife Joy Sievertson, their children and grandchildren, we held an award ceremony in my district office in Humble, Texas, to finally present the award to him.

Mr. William Sievertson is a shining example of America's Greatest Generation. He courageously served his country in a time of World War to battle America's enemies abroad. It is my honor to finally give recognition to this American patriot for his heroic service to our great nation.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND FRED AND JACQUELYN ROGERS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Reverend Fred and Jacquelyn Rogers. As the love between Fred and

Jackie grew throughout their fifty years of marriage, so did their love for the church and communities of Northwest Florida.

A native of Milton, Florida, Fred Rogers has devoutly served Northwest Florida as Pastor of Milton First Assembly of God since 1960. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and a member of the Santa Rosa County Ministerial Association.

Out of her passion for teaching and love for children, Jackie Rogers has proudly served in the Santa Rosa County Florida school district, where she currently teaches Kindergarten and first grade Sunday school.

Fred and Jackie continue to demonstrate their strong family values and unwavering faith in God as loving parents and grandparents.

Through their leadership and dedication, Fred and Jackie honorably and spiritually served the church and the Northwest Florida community. Northwest Florida is truly blessed to have them as her own. Together, they have touched a number of lives, and the impact they have made on the community will leave a lasting impression.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a great honor for me to recognize Reverend Fred and Jackie Rogers for their love and dedicated service to the communities of Northwest Florida. I would like to offer my sincere congratulations in celebration of their 50 years together and recognize that they serve as an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed one of Tuesday's rollcall votes, No. 877. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIMP

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a brave man from my District, Captain Scott Shimp, a 1998 graduate of Bayard High School. Captain Shimp died last week when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed during training exercises in Alabama.

Scott was an enthusiastic young man who loved serving his country. A consummate soldier and a graduate of West Point Academy, he was a credit to the Bayard community—a community which has rallied around those he left behind.

My heart goes out to Scott's family and all affected by his death. We owe him a debt of gratitude we can repay by living up to the example he set in his personal and professional life.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANNY VARGAS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the outstanding public service of Raul Danny Vargas to his fellow citizens of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Danny took the helm of my 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee when it was created over 2 years ago. As its first chairman, he has directed the group's efforts in providing a forum for issues of interest to the Hispanic community in northern Virginia and advising me on ways to assist the community and respond to its unique concerns.

Through his extraordinary leadership, the group's membership as well as its outreach to the community have grown and advanced. Danny has led the committee in advising me on issues of importance to the Hispanic community, such as the infiltration of gangs in our community and how to respond. He led the advisory panel in organizing a gang prevention town hall meeting conducted in Spanish in the Herndon community. The committee also has addressed education and immigration issues of importance to the growing Hispanic population in northern Virginia.

Danny is living the "American Dream." He was raised in a single parent home along with three other siblings by his mother, who immigrated to America from Puerto Rico. Danny served his country as an Air Force intelligence officer before launching his own company, VARCom Solutions, a full-service marketing, sales, and communications support company located in Herndon. An active leader in the business, Hispanic and at-large communities, he has served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also was appointed as a board member for two nonprofit organizations in northern Virginia—Northern Virginia Family Service and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, lending his expertise in marketing, communications, media, and public relations to these organizations and their missions to serve the needs of families and youth in the region.

Danny Vargas is a proven and respected business and community leader. As he turns over the reins of the 10th District Hispanic Advisory Committee, I want to thank him on behalf of the people of the 10th District for his hard work and dedication to making the 10th District a better place to live and work and raise a family.

HONORING CHARLES W. "WES" KEARNEY, SR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, Charles W. "Wes" Kearney, Sr. of Brandon, Florida, passed away on August 11, 2007, in the loving presence of his friends and family.

Wes was a well-known and respected member of the community, whose entrepreneurial

spirit and generous character not only defined him as a person, but played an important role in the lives of others.

During World War II, Wes served in the United States Navy, joining the United States in the fight to defend our Nation and to defend those who could not defend themselves. His service to this country is honored and greatly admired.

Following the War, Wes grabbed a hold of the American dream and eventually founded many companies under the Kearney name. Through generous philanthropy, Wes used the success of his businesses to improve his community and help others.

Wes will be best remembered as a man whose virtue and integrity is unmatched, as well as someone who was deeply dedicated to his family and friends.

He leaves behind a beautiful family, and is survived by his lovely wife Joanne, his son Bryan and wife Dawn and their children, Skye and Sean; son Barry and wife Susan and their children, Tara and Logan; and son Bing and his children, son Chad and his wife Shayna, Chase, Clay and Charlie.

As we celebrate his life, we know that he will be dearly missed.

IN HONOR OF THE A.I. DUPONT HIGH SCHOOL TIGER MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band as they prepare for their fifth appearance in the Rose Parade. The school, located in Wilmington, Delaware, has worked hard to create a strong musical program, for which they should be very proud. The band's musical performances, which are selected and designed by the students, are always an exciting event for the entire community.

The band boasts an impressive record worthy of high praise. Their performances have inspired audiences at countless local, national and even international events. Some of these notable appearances include; two Orange Bowl Parades, two Presidential Inaugurations, the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a Peace Parade in Vatican City and four Rose Parades—soon to be five. They are currently the most televised high school band in America and have placed first in every marching competition they have entered since 1989. That is why it is no surprise that when I was asked to recommend a band to represent Delaware in the 2008 Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC, the A.I. DuPont Tigers quickly came to mind.

There are currently 265 members in the Tiger Marching Band, all of whom have worked tirelessly to carry on the strong Tiger tradition set before them. Their efforts are evident, which is why they have been invited to participate in the 119th Rose Parade this January in Pasadena, California. This makes them the only band outside California to march in the parade four times under the same director. I am confident they will represent Delaware well in California on New Year's Day.

I would like to wish the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band the best of luck in this exciting period of preparation for the upcoming Rose Parade. The hard work and dedication put forth by all of those involved is truly commendable and I can think of no band more capable of representing Delaware at the Rose Parade this January.

CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, next week I will be traveling to New York City as a Congressional Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the United Nations has a lot to do in order to restore the trust of the American people.

Since its inception, one of the primary objectives of the United Nations has been to protect and advance fundamental human rights around the world. It's a noble cause. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in my view, this goal has been tarnished by the problem of corruption, hypocrisy, and an unapologetic bias against the state of Israel. This kind of behavior is unacceptable and the United Nations must be held accountable.

We all know about the fraud, mismanagement, and abuse prevalent in the Oil-for-Food program. The program was established to bring humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq and it fell victim to despicable corruption by U.N. officials. Yet, since the scandal was first discovered and reports were issued, little has been done by the United Nations to ensure reform.

The Human Rights Council was established in 2006, to replace the U.N. Human Rights Commission which had become so discredited that Secretary-General Kofi Annan admitted, "the declining credibility [of the Commission] has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole . . ." The mission of the Commission—not to mention the United Nations as a whole—was questioned by the election of some of the world's worse human rights abusers to serve as members of the Commission. The record of the new Human Rights Council is dismally better; of the 47 members only 25 were considered "free" states.

This Council has also demonstrated a strong bias against Israel. In the first year of its operations, more than 70 percent of the country-specific resolutions were on Israel. This disproportionate focus on Israel and disregard for holding major human rights violators across the world accountable cannot be tolerated. It goes against the most basic, fundamental principles of the U.N.

I appreciate the mission of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, but I'm concerned about the way it's being carried out. The U.N. has got to take reform seriously if they plan on gaining the support of the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE FORTY FORT MEETING HOUSE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Forty Fort Meeting House which is celebrating its 200th anniversary as a place for citizens to congregate for the purpose of worshipping God and serving their communities.

A national historic landmark, the Forty Fort Meeting House, located in the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, is the oldest existing house of worship in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Two hundred years ago, the colonists viewed the discussion of religion and politics as fundamental to the success and prosperity of their community and they created an institution strictly for that purpose—the meeting house.

The origins of the Forty Fort Meeting House are rooted in colonial New England where members of the local community gathered inside plain wooden structures twice on Sunday to worship and during the midweek to discuss community affairs and elect local officials.

The Forty Fort Meeting House served as a place of worship until 1837 when the Presbyterians and Methodists built their own churches, leaving the Meeting House and adjoining cemetery to become neglected.

In 1860, the Forty Fort Cemetery Association was established and with it came a renewed sense of responsibility for stewardship of the Meeting House. William Swetland, the association's first president, replaced the roof, painted the exterior and repaired the fence. For the next 130 years, the structure received only cosmetic repairs to the exterior.

Today, efforts are underway to restore the structure through an endowment project that seeks to raise funds for the work and to continue preservation well into the future.

The Forty Fort Meeting House stands as a legacy to the spiritual fortitude, fierce determination and moral courage of the Connecticut Yankees who settled the Wyoming Valley.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Forty Fort Meeting House and in urging citizens from throughout the region to support the ongoing preservation project fund raiser to insure that a vital part of our Nation's past remains intact so future generations can appreciate how their ancestors laid the foundation for our present great society.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT AL LEWIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Al Lewis on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving over 29 years as a police officer and

sergeant and 31 years as a member of the Newark Police Department.

Sergeant Lewis began his career with the Newark Police Department as a reserve police officer in January 1976 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer in January 1978. He was selected as the department's first school resource officer in 1988 and was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February 1991.

Sergeant Lewis was most recently assigned to the Patrol Division, but has also served as a range instructor and supervised the K9 unit. His passion has been the police K9 program, which he is responsible for bringing back to the department.

He has also held numerous specialized assignments during his tenure including patrol officer, traffic officer, property detective, field training officer, weaponless defense instructor, police reserve officer program coordinator, substitute DARE instructor, member of the accident review board, SWAT member, SWAT leader, SWAT sniper, SWAT sergeant, liaison to the Newark communications volunteers, member of C.O.P.P.S. design team, and acting lieutenant for the detective division.

Sergeant Lewis has been a key member of the Citizen Police Academy teaching staff, covering many of the courses taught during the annual 10-week class. He has earned the Reserve Police Officer of the Year award in 1976 and the Police Officer of the Year award in 1982. In addition, he has also received numerous other department awards throughout his career.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Sergeant Al Lewis for his years of service and commitment to the City of Newark and the community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. _____ which includes "new construction" as qualified restaurant property to take advantage of the reduction from 39½ years to 15 years for depreciation. H.R. _____ also makes permanent the already existing 15-year depreciation for improvements to restaurant property.

Madam Speaker, depreciation schedules for commercial real estate have not been significantly revised since they were established. Currently, commercial real estate generally has a 39½-year depreciable life for the original building and for any subsequent renovations or improvements to the building. Changes have been made in recent years to allow certain industries that directly compete with restaurants to benefit from shorter schedules. These schedules range from seven years for food outlets located in amusement parks to 15 years for those in gas stations and convenience stores. This favorable depreciation schedule has allowed convenience stores to expand and improve their foodservice operations.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 established that restaurants could depreciate qualified restaurant building improvement costs over 15 years for property in place by

the end of 2005. Just as it had intended, this provision spurred a tremendous amount of economic activity in both the restaurant industry and the overall economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the restaurant industry spent more than \$7.4 billion on new structures and building improvements in 2005—a 42 percent increase over the \$5.2 billion spent in 2004. The additional spending—fueled by a shorter depreciation schedule—created thousands of jobs in construction-related industries across the country. However, while enhanced depreciation for new restaurant construction was originally included in this legislation, it was subsequently removed for reasons that remain uncertain; thus only leasehold and restaurant improvements were included in the final package.

The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 extended the existing combined qualified leasehold and restaurant improvement provision for costs incurred through the end of 2007. These provisions do not cover new restaurant construction in stand-alone buildings but only apply to restaurants leasing space within larger commercial buildings, and to improvements to existing restaurant structures.

Because the depreciation changes that have been made in the past do not apply to stand-alone/owner occupied buildings, a significant sector of retail businesses is at a distinct economic disadvantage, as they must continue to depreciate their buildings, and any improvements made to them, over a 39½-year schedule. This recovery period is particularly onerous for the restaurant industry because most restaurants remodel and update their building structures every 6 to 8 years—a much shorter timeframe than is reflected in the current depreciation schedule. Each periodic improvement must in turn be depreciated over its own 39½-year schedule, resulting in concurrent depreciable lives. This “layering” in turn yields an actual net tax value in excess of the restaurant’s fair market value.

Restaurants must constantly make changes to keep up with the daily structural and cosmetic wear and tear caused by customers and employees. On any given day, nearly half of all American adults are patrons of the restaurant industry. Restaurants get more customer traffic and are open longer than other commercial businesses. This heavy use accelerates deterioration of a restaurant building’s entrance, lobbies, flooring, restrooms, and interior walls. Restaurant built structures therefore experience more wear and tear unlike that borne by any other types of buildings in the retail industry.

These renovations and structural improvements made to restaurants every 6 to 8 years come at an average cost of \$250,000 to \$400,000. This year alone the restaurant industry is expected to spend in excess of \$5.5 billion on capital expenditures for building construction and renovations. The restaurant industry is projected to spend over \$70 billion over the next 10 years for building construction and renovations. These expenditures in turn have a significant economic impact on the construction industry, with whose members restaurants contract to perform the new construction and renovations. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, every dollar spent in the construction industry generates an additional \$2.39 in spending in the rest of the economy, while every \$1 million spent in the construction industry creates more than 28 jobs in the overall economy.

Madam Speaker, it is time to equalize the depreciation schedules for new construction with those for combined qualified leasehold and restaurant improvements to make tax policy in this area more uniform, consistent, and fair. H.R. ___ will accomplish this, and put new restaurant construction on a par with leasehold and improvements with regard to depreciation. H.R. ___ helps a service industry—one that will provide work for approximately 12.8 million people in the United States in 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF JIMMY DALE SPOONEYBARGER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jimmy Dale Spooneybarger for 30 years of service in law enforcement. Through his dedication and selfless sacrifice, Jimmy has contributed much to the efforts of working to keep our country a safer place.

While born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania in 1950, Jimmy Dale Spooneybarger spent the majority of his childhood in Niceville, Florida. Graduating from Niceville High School, Jimmy pursued a degree in Law Enforcement from the University of West Florida. Upon completion, he joined the local law enforcement community as a police officer in Pensacola, Florida. In 1977, Jimmy’s career relocated to the West Coast, where he served as a U.S. Border Patrol Agent in San Diego.

Throughout his career in law enforcement, Jimmy’s passion for music only grew. As a professional musician, Jimmy has served as the Bivocational Minister of Music in five churches, including the First Baptist Church of Gulf Breeze, where he continues to serve today.

Jimmy Dale Spooneybarger has proudly served the law enforcement and church community through his leadership and passion. But he is also a dedicated husband, loving father and grandfather. Northwest Florida is truly honored to have him as one of her own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a great honor for me to recognize Jimmy Dale Spooneybarger for his continued service to Northwest Florida and this great Nation.

MANO JAMES TORTA

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mano James Torta. Mr. Torta was tragically killed on March 30, 2007, when he was hit by a drunk-driver while crossing the street in front of his apartment building. Mr. Torta was on the way to meet his wife, Lorraine, for dinner.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to Lorraine, and the rest of the Torta family, including his son James and his two daughters, Kimberly and Christine, Christine’s husband Peter and their daughter, his grand-

daughter, Caitlin. At the same time, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues some comments written about Mr. Torta by his son.

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to know my father well, it may be difficult for you to understand what kind of man my father was—as my father was not like other men.

My father, first and foremost, was a man filled with love. He loved my mother—completely, honestly, selflessly—for more than thirty-five years. I cannot even begin to describe the depth and beauty of their love. Many men, on their passing, are described as “devoted husbands”—but I cannot imagine a man more devoted to his wife. His love for her—and hers for him—was a love that transcends words. He lived for her—truly, truly—lived for her. How many husbands can make such a claim? He lived to make her smile, to make her laugh, to make her happy. She was more than his wife—she was his heart, his love, his life. She was everything to him. There are so many stories that I could tell you—beautiful stories about my mom and dad that would make you believe, really believe—in “true love.” For their’s was the truest of love, and they spent their lives devoting themselves to each other. But instead of telling you a story, I want to give you an image—a simple image, for their’s was a simple love. I want you to imagine my father and mother sitting at their kitchen table, taking tea together, talking and laughing about what had happened on that particular day. Then my father would smile wide and say that he had a surprise for her—for he was always surprising her with some sort of treat—and he would go to some nook in a cabinet and bring out some mint milano cookies that he had bought earlier in the day and hidden away so that, at this moment, he could make her even happier than she was. That was their love, the kind of love that showed itself in every minute of every day, the simple and pure kind of love—sitting together, laughing, sharing, wanting only each other’s company. After thirty-five years their love was something more than what they shared—it was who they were. How many people are blessed with such wondrous simplicity? And how can I even begin to tell you how much my father loved his family?

My father would often tell me how proud he was to have me as a son—but I was even more proud to have him as my father. I like to tell stories about him to my students—how he worked for thirty-five years at a post office to support his family, working long hours and sometimes more than one job to send all three of his children to college and to make sure that they all had the opportunities in life that he never had. I would tell them about how he would try to give me the last dollar he had in his wallet, how he would always make time for us to talk or play catch in the backyard even when he was exhausted from a long night at work, how he gave everything he had to his family. But again, words cannot tell the story of my father’s love for his family. If only you could have seen how gently he picked us up when we fell down and scraped our knees, how securely he held us in his arms when we cried, how he held our hands when we were sick. It is often said that you never know what you have until it is gone, but my sisters and I knew how lucky we were. It was impossible not to know what a good father my dad was. We depended so much on him and he never, never, let us down. He always wanted to give us more, help us more, and spend more time with us. We would give anything to spend more time with him now.

My sisters would tell you that no matter how much we loved him, he loved us more. Listening to my sisters remember him, hearing my mom mourn—I've come to understand that he taught us about many things, but the most important thing he taught us about was love. He showed us that love was not to be spent on material things, but to be given to people who are close to you. He taught us that love, above all other things, was of paramount importance in this life—that without love we have nothing. And he didn't just say these things; he lived his life inspired by these ideals.

My father wrote me a letter seven years ago, a letter I have carried around in my wallet ever since. In the letter he wrote—with touching simplicity and sincerity—to tell me how much he loved me, how proud he was of me, and how he hoped that I would follow my heart and make all my dreams come true. I didn't need to carry it around—I mean, I never needed any reminder of how he felt—but I whenever I touched the folded up paper, no matter where I was or what I was doing, I felt as though everything was going to be okay. And that's how he made all of us feel—warm and loved and safe. I was not surprised when, on Friday night, my mom showed me a note he had written her—also folded up and tucked into her purse. He had that effect on all of us.

My father had so many things to look forward to—he was going to retire this summer after 35 years of service and travel around the world with my mom. He was going to watch his lovely granddaughter Caitlin grow up. He was finally going to get a chance—after all those years of struggling and working—to take a deep breath and relax. No man has ever deserved to enjoy the fruits of life after retirement more than he. Yet there he was, crossing the street, on the cusp of a whole new chapter in life—and he was taken from this world . . . not by illness or old age, but by cruel, cruel chance. His death was a senseless tragedy—proof of what an unfair and senseless world this can be—but today I beg you instead to remember how he lived his life . . . for his kindness, grace, and generosity should be an example to us all. He would not want us to harden our hearts and spend this time burning with anger at the enormity of this tragedy. Instead remember what a wonderful, beautiful man he was, the kind of man who gave so much and took so little. Remember how a man who had seen so much and worked so hard somehow managed to keep his heart so pure, and his soul so gentle. For who here ever knew a man as gentle as he?

Yesterday I said that my dad was lucky to have met his granddaughter Caitlin—for she was born only 14 months ago—and my sister Kim corrected me and said that Caitlin was lucky to have met him. And that is the truth of it—we all were lucky to have known him. He was the best of men . . . the very best. He will be missed more than anyone can possibly imagine.

Again, my thoughts and prayers go out to the Torta family.

RECOGNIZING WAYNE VIGER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL HERO OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Wayne Viger, this year's recipient of the National Association of Letter Carriers' National Hero of the Year Award.

We are all familiar with the unofficial motto of the letter carriers which says that "neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Mr. Viger went above and beyond even this solemn promise, putting himself at risk to evacuate residents of a burning apartment building.

While completing his rounds, Mr. Viger smelled smoke at an apartment building on his route. Hearing a smoke alarm and seeing smoke pouring from the door and windows of a ground floor apartment, he entered the apartment to find an elderly woman with clothes aflame and hair singed. Viger pulled the woman to safety and extinguished her burning clothing. He proceeded to alert and evacuate other residents of the building, providing comfort and care wherever he could.

I am very proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Wayne Viger for his actions and for receiving the National Association of Letter Carriers' National Hero of the Year Award. His actions speak to deep-rooted courage and compassion for others as well as quick thinking and decisiveness, qualities which make him a role model for others and a deserving Hero of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAX ROACH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the incredible life and work of legendary jazz drummer and composer Max Roach.

Few of the musicians remain who were there with Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Bud Powell and Thelonious Monk as they created a new more adventurous, unbridled form of jazz: bebop. The passing of Max Roach on August 16, at age 83, marks another step towards the end of the modern jazz world's greatest generation.

Roach's style, marked by its awe inspiring clarity and control, would come to redefine and expand the role of jazz drummers. In the mid-1940's he transformed the sound of jazz percussion from an easy-going, head-swaying swing sound, with just a dash of horn-led syncopation, to a sound that had a propulsive drive. After Max Roach, being a jazz drummer meant more than being a mere tempo-keeper.

With Roach the cymbals led the way, not just followed the chart; and, every now and then, Roach would accent a beat or drop an explosion on the tom-tom, to carve up the rhythm and extend the horns' liberties. Even the most casual listener could not help hearing the difference. Throughout the next 47 years his virtuosity would change the way drummers and musicians looked at playing jazz.

Max Roach was a prolific performer and recording artist; indeed, he was the percussionist on many of the seminal jazz recordings of the last half century.

Renowned throughout his performing life, Roach has won an extraordinary array of honors. He was one of the first winners of the MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant, cited as a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters in France, twice awarded the French Grand Prix du Disque, elected to the International Percussive Society's Hall of Fame and the Downbeat Magazine Hall of Fame, awarded Harvard Jazz Master, celebrated by Aaron Davis Hall, given eight honorary doctorate degrees, including degrees awarded by the University of Bologna, Italy and Columbia University.

He is survived by five children: sons Daryl and Raoul, and daughters Maxine, Ayo and Dara. My heart goes out to them and I wish them all well in this time of difficulty. It is unlikely that we will ever see another Max Roach, but we were blessed to have had him while we did.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LILLI LAND

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the House's attention today to recognizing a highly distinguished educator in my Congressional district, Dr. Lilli Land. Dr. Land is the principal of the Auburn Early Education Center, and recently received a National Distinguished Principal award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Dr. Land is a graduate of Auburn University, and holds the following degrees in Early Childhood Education: Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, Specialist in Education, and a Doctorate in Philosophy. She has been a part of the Alabama Public School system since she first taught second grade in Tallapoosa County in 1981, and has more recently served as a kindergarten teacher and in various administrative capacities. In 2000, Dr. Land joined Auburn City Schools and now serves as AEEC's principal.

During Dr. Land's tenure, AEEC has become a renowned example of excellence in early childhood education. Her educational philosophy promotes original, student-driven content and individual attention to help maximize every student's potential. AEEC has also received numerous awards for outstanding integration of new technologies into their curriculum.

I congratulate Dr. Lilli Land for her years of service and outstanding leadership in helping educate Alabama's children.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL FRAZIER

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of exemplary service that Colonel Frazier of the United States Marine Corps has given to this great country.

Colonel Frazier has served in many capacities since he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1974. During his seven years of enlisted service and 30 total years of service, he served a myriad of posts in a variety of locations worldwide. He has served his country both in enlisted service and in positions of leadership in Saigon, Korea, Okinawa, Thailand, Russia, Camp Pendleton, CA; Parris Island, SC; Australia, Quantico, VA; Stuttgart, Germany; and finally, in Iraq.

In 1989, he earned his BS in Criminal Justice Administration from National University using the Marine Corps College Degree Program. Upon graduation from Top Level School in 2003 he was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force G-4 Division and completed two deployments to Iraq. He was promoted to Colonel on 1 January 2005 and joined MCIWEST Headquarters in March 2006 and served concurrently as Head, Infrastructure Plans Branch and as Assistant Chief of Staff Facilities, MCB, Camp Pendleton, CA.

With such a diverse resume and a multidisciplinary record of leadership positions, his deep understanding of many facets of the United States Marine Corps lends him to being not only just an excellent advocate for our troops, but a quintessential example for how diversely talented a Marine can be. With his willingness to travel, to continue his education and to serve his country wherever and whenever possible, the United States and the U.S. Marine Corps could not have asked for more. In his 30 years of military service Colonel Frazier has proven himself an able and willing leader.

His personal decorations include the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and two Good Conduct Medals.

Colonel Frazier is married to the former Myra Marie Marbrey of Carlsbad, CA. They have five children: Gerald, an Air Force Master Sergeant, Clyde III, Jeremy, Michael and Anthony.

On behalf of the people of the United States, whom Colonel Frazier spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation; he truly is a great American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on September 17, had I been present on rollcall No. 867 to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 868 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1657, to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 869 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3527, to extend the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, I would have voted "yea."

On September 18, had I been present for rollcall No. 870, to approve the Journal, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 871 on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 650, providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 872 on approving H. Res. 650, providing for consideration of H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 873, on passing the Hensarling amendment to H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 874, on passing the Biggart amendment to H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 875, a motion to recommit H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 876, on passing H.R. 1852, Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 877 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3096, to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam, I would have voted "yea."

On September 19, had I been present for rollcall No. 878, to approve the Journal, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 879 on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 660, providing for consideration of H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 880 on passing H. Res. 660, providing for consideration of H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 881 on passing the Frank amendment to H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 882 on passing the Pearce amendment to H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 883, a motion to recommit H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 884, on passing H.R. 2761, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision and Extension Act, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 885, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3580, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING TEXARKANA, TX,
T.J. MAXX ACCOMPLISHMENT**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of my constituents in Texarkana, TX, for their efforts to help children in need during back-to-school shopping last month.

For over twenty years, T.J. Maxx has partnered with Save the Children to help raise money for and awareness about their programs in the United States. These include early childhood development, literacy, nutrition and physical activity programs that are implemented through partnerships with schools and community organizations serving low-income children in rural communities.

On August 31st, T.J. Maxx concluded its in-store "Happy Hearts" campaign that raised \$1.47 million for Save the Children. I thank all who contributed to this great cause, but I am especially pleased that the T.J. Maxx store that raised the most money per customer was in my district, in Texarkana, Texas.

Considering all the demands that individuals have on their time and money, I applaud the customers in the Texarkana area who generously donated to the worthy cause of Save the Children. T.J. Maxx is giving communities across the country the opportunity to help those in need, and I heartily applaud their efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
FLUSHING REMONSTRANCE**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 350th anniversary of the signing of the Flushing Remonstrance. Though sadly not as well known as some of our country's other founding documents, the Flushing Remonstrance's heroic call for religious freedom made this document fundamental to the establishment of our country as a land of religious liberty.

On December 27, 1657, in Flushing, New York City, 29 brave English citizens composed a document stating their unwillingness to tolerate or enforce an official mandate for religious persecution. These daring patriots rose in protest of Governor Peter Stuyvesant's call to persecute the area's new Quaker inhabitants, and affirmed their belief in the "law of love, peace and liberty."

Madam Speaker, some of the signatories of the Remonstrance were imprisoned, and many suffered for their actions. Nevertheless, by standing up for their beliefs, they successfully initiated the fight for religious freedom in the New World. We all owe the signers of the Flushing Remonstrance a debt of gratitude, as their appreciation of, and commitment to religious freedom has become the cornerstone of our democracy.

Later this year, the Borough of Queens will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Flushing Remonstrance with many descendants of

the document's signatories. The original document will be transported from the State Archives in Albany, New York and will be on display at the Queens Borough Public Library, Flushing, during the official celebration.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 350th anniversary of the Flushing Remonstrance, a document that pioneered the right to religious freedom in America and throughout the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 867, H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I was inadvertently detained. I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall Nos. 868 and 869, I was also detained. I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1657, Science and Technology Scholarships and "aye" on H.R. 3527, Extending Authorities for the Overseas Investment Corporation—Private.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Fifty years ago today, on September 25, 1957, 9 African American students who would come to be known as the Little Rock Nine—Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls—successfully integrated Little Rock Central High. With strength, determination, and dignity, the Little Rock Nine stood up to the inequities and injustices of their time.

The Little Rock Nine realized that the promise of the 1954 *Brown v. Board* (347 U.S. 483) was unfulfilled 3 years later in 1957. The *Brown* decision recognized that the segregation of public schools deprived students of the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection. Continued segregation on the basis of race was to be no more. Armed with the *Brown v. Board* decision, the Little Rock Nine would successfully dismantle years of school segregation.

Implementing the law of the land, the actions of the Little Rock Nine were symbolic of the promise of educational access and equality not just in Little Rock, but in cities throughout the nation. The Little Rock Nine conveyed that "separate, but equal" would have no place in this country. Despite death threats,

verbal and physical assaults, school closings, and other adversities, the Little Rock Nine persevered in their mission of school integration.

And despite the violence that was inflicted upon them, the Little Rock Nine did as Dr. King instructed: "[M]eet physical force with soul force." On September 26, 1957, Dr. King urged the people of Little Rock to "adhere rigorously to a way of non-violence," and they did. The Little Rock Nine not only furthered the Civil Rights Movement's strategy of non-violence, but proved that ordinary citizens, and young citizens like themselves, could bring about change. Just as Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat led to integration of public accommodations, the Little Rock Nine's refusal to be denied an education led to integration of public schools.

Members of the Little Rock Nine went on to become social workers, educators, government officials, and other distinguished professionals. In 1999, the Little Rock Nine established the Little Rock Nine Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to advancing educational access and opportunities for young people of color—a commitment that reflects the significant and historic role of the Little Rock Nine in the Civil Rights Movement and within the realm of education.

Today, because of the Little Rock Nine, our country's children, regardless of race, are entitled to fair and equal education. In furthering this entitlement, the Congress must continue to work to promote racial diversity, integration, and inclusion within our Nation's schools. It is our responsibility to continue the legacy of *Brown v. Board* and the Little Rock Nine. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine integrating Little Rock Central High is symbolic of this commitment.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA AND GROUNDS OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO TENZIN GYATSO, THE FOURTEENTH DALAI LAMA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago—in October of 1987—His Holiness the Dalai Lama came here to Washington for the purpose of sharing with the leaders of our country his mission to end the systematic abuse by the People's Republic of China of the fundamental human rights of the people of Tibet.

In that effort, His Holiness did not have much success.

For fear offending the People's Republic of China, President Reagan chose not to meet with him.

At the Department of State, it was the same story.

But at the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I founded and of which I was then—and remain—co-chairman, we decided in the face of much protest to give to the Dalai Lama the forum he deserved. To this day, I am proud of that decision.

And I am proud that, just as this body was the first in our Government to give the Dalai Lama a venue to speak on behalf of his people, we will take the lead again and honor him with the Congressional Gold Medal.

I have come to know the Dalai Lama is one of our era's greatest moral heroes, sharing a commitment to peace of other great leaders of our time, including Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

At a time in history when national grievances are often expressed in the most strident language and when political violence and rage are everywhere, the Dalai Lama speaks with a different voice. Instead of hating his opponents, he recognizes the humanity of those who are oppressing his people. Always, he seeks to find the path to harmony and peace.

"I speak not with a feeling of anger or hatred toward those who are responsible for the immense suffering of our people and the destruction of our land, homes and culture," said His Holiness in his Nobel Lecture. "They, too, are human beings who struggle to find happiness and deserve our compassion. I speak to inform you of the sad situation in my country today and of the aspirations of my people, because in our struggle for freedom, truth is the only weapon we possess."

We have before us today, a resolution whose purpose is to authorize the use, on October 17, of the rotunda of the Capitol as the venue for the ceremony at which my dear friend, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, will receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

That is an appropriate location. The Capitol is the great symbol of American freedom—and of hope to millions around the world. Who better to be honored there?

I strongly support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE CPL CARLOS OROZCO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Cpl. Carlos Gil Orozco, who died on September 10th while out on patrol in Al-Anbar province.

In 1993, Carlos and his family immigrated to San Jose, California from Colombia, in search of a better life. Carlos graduated from Willow Glen High School, and later decided to join the Marines with the support of his family. Carlos was described by friends as a good American, who will be sorely missed. More than 300 mourners gathered in downtown San Jose this past Monday to attend his memorial service.

On behalf of this Congress and California's 16th Congressional District, I offer Carlos's family our deepest condolences as they cope with this painful loss. We are so thankful for his dedicated service to our country. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carlos's family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF "LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT RESTORATION
ACT OF 2007"

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Local Law Enforcement Restoration Act of 2007 in response to the recent decision by a federal judge to strike down a local ordinance in Hazleton, Pennsylvania aimed at addressing out of control illegal immigration in that community. The purpose of that local ordinance was to keep illegal aliens from taking up residence within the town's jurisdiction or taking local jobs. I believe that my legislation is necessary at this time in order to provide clarity and ensure that local elected officials are able to enforce ordinances against illegal immigration in their communities. Immigration enforcement has already overburdened our federal law enforcement agencies, and state and local governments should not be hampered when they want to step in where the federal government has failed. The federal judge misread current federal immigration law and communities should not be penalized by over-reaching federal judges. My legislation simply clarifies the right of local communities and states to address the consequences of illegal immigration within their jurisdictions.

A number of other communities and several states have taken similar approaches to address illegal immigration in their communities. Given the Federal Government's failure to act to enforce the laws already on the books to combat illegal immigration, a growing number of state and city officials across the United States are pursuing laws similar to those enacted in Hazleton. These elected officials are driven by Washington's failure to control our borders or deal with the more than 12 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S.

It is important to remove any ambiguity about the ability of states and localities—the ones who bear the financial costs associated with illegal immigration—to enforce their local ordinances aimed at addressing illegal immigration in their community. In many ways, illegal immigration is the ultimate unfunded mandate—the federal government fails to control the border, but then saddles states and localities with the costs imposed by illegal aliens (in the form of education spending, public services, and law enforcement costs).

It is important to clarify that states and localities are not preempted by federal law from imposing civil or criminal sanctions upon those who employ, recruit or refer for a fee for employment, unauthorized aliens. In the case of the ruling against Hazleton, the judge went well beyond the intent of federal law. Essentially, he said that cities and states are powerless to discourage illegal immigration within their jurisdiction. The good news is that by amending the INA we can address this problem and provide the degree of clarity to this issue that would remove any ambiguity in the law. My legislation does just this, and makes sure that cities and states have leeway to rein-force federal immigration law.

If you believe that the Federal Government has failed to effectively enforce our immigration laws, and believe that the Federal Government should ensure that states and local

communities have the ability to discourage illegal immigration consistent with federal law, then join me in passing the The Local Law Enforcement Restoration Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION OHEV
SHOLOM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Ohev Sholom is the oldest continuously operating Jewish House of Worship in the state of Kansas.

Congregation Ohev Sholom was founded in 1877 and is currently a Member of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The first building erected by Gomel Cheshed Synagogue, at 925 State Line, was dedicated by Rabbi M. Gershonowitz on September 3, 1893. Congregation Ohev Sholom was the result of a merger between Gomel Cheshed and Shearith Israel Synagogues. Congregation Ohev Sholom's first building was at 7th and Sandusky in Kansas City, Kansas and they moved into that building in 1925.

Ohev Sholom began the transition from 7th and Sandusky, Wyandotte County, Kansas, to 75th and Nall, Johnson County, Kansas, in the 1950s. The current location was completed in two stages. The school building was finished in 1961, while the remaining structure was finished about a decade later.

Congregation Ohev Sholom offers a schedule of programs that include Regular Daily Morning Services, Weekly Sabbath Services, an Active and Vibrant Sisterhood, a Robust Breakfast Club, Social Action Activities, and Programs for Adult Education, and Community Action including participation in building a Habitat for Humanity House. Congregation Ohev Sholom's Religious School is an exciting part of programming and spans kindergarten to tenth grade. Congregation Ohev Sholom also offers an Adult Education Program that includes Torah Study, lectures and minicourses, lunches, brunches, and speakers. Additionally, Congregation Ohev Sholom conceived and executed the metro Kansas City area's first KosherFest—A Celebration of Jewish Food—and will continue that tradition on June 1, 2008 and thereafter.

Congregation Ohev Sholom will celebrate its 130th Anniversary, October 27, 2007. Madam Speaker, I know that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in taking note of this special and important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO EHUD DANOCH, CON-
SUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN
LOS ANGELES

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I and my colleagues, Rep. HENRY WAXMAN, Rep. ADAM SCHIFF, Rep. BRAD SHERMAN, Rep. LINDA SANCHEZ, Rep. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Rep. XAVIER BECER-

RA, Rep. GRACE NAPOLITANO, Rep. HILDA SOLIS, Rep. ED ROYCE, and Rep. JANE HARMAN pay tribute today to Ehud Danoch, Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles. We have had the pleasure of working with the Consul General on many Middle East issues since his arrival in Los Angeles in October of 2004 and view his return to Israel with regret.

Consul General Danoch is a distinguished and greatly admired individual who has enjoyed an outstanding diplomatic career. Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, he served as Chief of Staff to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Silvan Shalom. He held this position during some of Israel's most challenging moments in foreign policy—the road map, the disengagement plan, and the security fence. He served as Senior Advisor to Israel's Minister of Finance, where he helped shape Israel's economic policy and the national budget. His contributions as liaison to the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister's Bureau, the Israeli Parliament, and other government offices, were invaluable.

Consul General Danoch received both a law degree and an MBA from Manchester University. He is a member of the Israeli Bar Association and has specialized in corporate and finance law and business litigation. Born in Ashkelon, Israel, he lived abroad for many years.

His multi-cultural experiences and knowledge of Hebrew, English, and Spanish have been extremely useful during his years in Los Angeles. He met with leaders in the Latino political, business, and media communities; and forged new partnerships which provide great mutual benefits. The Consul General was also a strong force in uniting the Jewish communities in the area through Israel-centered events.

Consul General Danoch's passion for film endeared him to many influential individuals in Hollywood. The relationships he forged enabled him to marshal entertainment industry support for Israel during the Hezbollah war of 2006.

During his three year tenure as Consul General of Israel, Ehud Danoch dedicated his time and energy in promoting Israel's many resources and providing opportunities for mutual advancements in the fields of high tech, trade, and finance. A man of tradition and devout observance, he furthered religious tolerance by arranging for Israeli spiritual leaders to meet with those in the United States.

Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, we ask you to join us in saluting Ehud Danoch on his many achievements as Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles and extending our best wishes for his future endeavors.

H.R. 3161—MAKING APPROPRIA-
TIONS FOR AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES PRO-
GRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3161, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug

Administration, and Related Agencies program. I regretfully do so even though agriculture is second only to tourism in terms of revenue for my home state of Florida.

By passing this legislation in its current form, the House of Representatives is almost ensuring a veto from the White House. This bill would spend \$91.5 billion including \$18.8 in discretionary spending, and is \$993 million over the President's budget request. I am concerned that if we send this bill to the President's desk with the current excessive spending, it will be vetoed along with many of the other fiscal year 2008 Appropriations bills. It is imperative that we write a bill with real reform and realistic spending levels. My constituents of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, along with the rest of America deserve legislation that contains realistic funding levels to ensure the safety of their food, promote conservation, provide assistance to those in need and protect the health of plants and animals through research.

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. SPIRITO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Michael J. Spirito for his long-time service to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department and surrounding communities.

Lieutenant Spirito began his career in law enforcement as a police officer in West Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania in March 1972. On his way to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, Lt. Spirito served four years with the West Chester Borough Police Department. Lt. Spirito joined the Tredyffrin Township Police in August 1977 and has been a proud member of that force from that day on.

Lt. Spirito is a graduate of Newnam College and is also a graduate of the 253rd session of the National Academy of the FBI. Born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, giving back to the community has always been a priority with Lt. Spirito. In addition to his service as a police officer, Lt. Spirito volunteered his services to the Aston Fire Company. In his spare time, Lt. Spirito is an avid pilot and a technology expert.

His leadership will be missed at the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, however I expect the entire County of Chester to benefit by his recent appointment as Deputy Director of Computer Services with the Chester County Government Services Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Lieutenant Michael J. Spirito for his exemplary and dedicated service to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department and citizens it serves. His commitment and energy to make his community a better place is an example for all citizens to follow.

DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON: TWENTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 1987, Dr. James H. Billington, who had already distinguished himself as one of this nation's most eminent cultural historians, was installed as the 13th Librarian of Congress. As one of Dr. Billington's many admirers, I want to extend to him my warmest congratulations on his 20th anniversary in that distinguished post.

As a youngster in his native Pennsylvania, Dr. Billington began what was to be a life-long pattern of exceptional intellectual accomplishment. He was one of those habitual valedictorians—first at Lower Merion High School and then, at Princeton University. He next went as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford University, where he completed his Ph.D.

Dr. Billington has been a professor at two of our most famous universities—Harvard and Princeton.

He is the author of several notable books on the cultural and political history of Russia—The Icon and the Axe and Fire in the Minds of Men, to name just two. Another of his books—The Face of Russia—became the basis of a three-part television series on PBS.

At last count, Dr. Billington had been awarded 33 honorary degrees from institutions all over the world, including Oxford, Moscow State University and Tbilisi State University in the Republic of Georgia.

It is in his present job, however—that of Librarian of Congress—that Dr. Billington has made truly monumental contributions to our nation's cultural and intellectual life.

"This place has a destiny to be a living encyclopedia of democracy," he said in his inaugural address, "not just a mausoleum of culture, but a catalyst for civilization."

For two decades, he has worked to fulfill that destiny.

During Dr. Billington's tenure, the holding of the Library of Congress have grown from 86 million to over 135 million items. The Library's budget has grown in that same period by over 200 percent.

In the Billington years, the Library has launched many new services—THOMAS, for example, is familiar to all of us here in Congress and the American Memory Program is being used in schools and libraries around the country.

Just recently, the Library's Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation began operations in Culpeper, VA. The Packard Campus, which is the result of the largest private gift ever made to the Library, is dedicated to transferring the Library's priceless, but deteriorating, collection of moving images and recorded sounds to digital files and placing these materials in a digital storage archive.

But of all the Billington era projects, the most far-reaching is the National Digital Library. This massive effort, funded by a public-private partnership, has already placed 135 million items on the Library's web site—with many, many millions more to come.

In Japan, Madam Speaker, a person who has made exceptional cultural contributions

can be designated as a living national treasure. We don't have that tradition here in America, but if we did, I do not think that I would be alone in submitting for that honor the name of James H. Billington.

I congratulate Dr. Billington on his 20th anniversary—and I thank him for the great things that he has done for our country.

H.R. 3162—THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my displeasure with H.R. 3162—The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP). The CHAMP Act would expand the existing State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by giving nearly 5 million children who come from middle-income families access to free healthcare. This proposal pays for this expansion by cutting 3 million senior citizens' access to Medicare. This legislation would nearly double the 6.6 million children who are currently enrolled in the SCHIP program.

In my home state of Florida, the current SCHIP program level covers children in families who earn up to 200 percent above the poverty level, which amounts to a \$41,200 annual income for a family of four. I support the SCHIP program in its current form. However, I cannot support an over-expansion of the program that uses hard-earned tax dollars to provide free healthcare to children and adults who come from middle-income families that make 300 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

The CHAMP Act is nothing more than a veiled effort to develop a single-payer healthcare system. In order to pay for this gross expansion of socialized medicine, this proposal would cut Medicare funds for 9,746 seniors who live in the Fourth Congressional District of Florida and are currently enrolled in the Medicare Advantage Program. I believe that my constituents would be unsupportive of any measure that compromises healthcare to the elderly in an attempt to give free healthcare to middle-class children and adults who were already covered by private health insurance plans. Finally, the funding mechanism for this expansion incorporates an increase in the federal cigarette tax from 39 cents to 84 cents per pack and increases taxes on many other forms of tobacco products.

In the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, 27,416 families, or 31 percent of all families with children under the age of 18, are already eligible for either Medicaid or SCHIP under current law. Despite this fact, the Medicare cuts to seniors are exacerbated by the fact that the CHAMP Act would cover individuals up to the age of 25. Once again, the very nature of the program, which is intended to provide medical care to children, is compromised by the expansion plan to cover young adults as well.

In addition to all the concerns I mentioned above, I was unable to support this legislation due to several additional concerns I had during the consideration of this legislation. First of all this bill was clouded in secrecy until hours

before the House of Representatives voted on the bill. Additionally, the proposal authorizes a one-month waiting period for a motorized scooter even if a doctor determined the scooter was medically necessary, and reduces the amount of time that the government would rent oxygen equipment to seniors from 36 months to only 13 months. Finally, the CHAMP Act, in its current form, provides free healthcare to illegal immigrants. This complete disregard for existing law will inevitably aggravate the existing illegal immigration problem.

This legislation was an erratic attempt to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance program while creating an open-ended entitlement program that moves us further away from providing benefits to those most in need.

VALLEY TOWNSHIP CHIEF OF
POLICE JOE FRIEL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Valley Township Chief of Police Joe Friel, a dedicated law enforcement officer who epitomizes honor and valor. Chief Friel is a graduate of the Downingtown Area School District, who then went on to attend the Delaware County Municipal Police Academy. He started his police career in Royersford Borough in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as a part-time police officer, and then eventually moved to western Chester County. He has worked for the Caln Township Police Department, Parkesburg Borough Police Department and Sadsbury Township Police Department, before taking a part-time job with the Valley Township Bureau of Police in 1989. He was eventually hired full-time in 1990 and, in 2000, he obtained the rank of Sergeant. Following 17 years of service, the young officer, who "was just happy to be a police officer," is now called Chief Friel and is in charge of nine other officers. He is married to Annette Friel and they have two children, Joe Jr. and Brittany.

In addition to Chief Friel's duties as a police officer, he was also a D.A.R.E. officer for six years, allowing him to work closely with students and schools in an effort to keep them safe. Chief Friel has received four outstanding service awards, two from the Valley Township Bureau of Police and two from the Coatesville Area School District for his service as a D.A.R.E. officer. Chief Friel is a certified field-training officer for the Bureau of Police and has extensive training in domestic violence investigation.

During his distinguished career, he was given a commendation for the apprehension of a subject that confronted police with two fully-loaded shotguns following a violent domestic dispute, as well as a commendation from the Westwood Fire Department for helping a man who was injured in an explosion.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Chief Friel worked for Hope Ambulance Service and was a member of the patient recovery operation team, which provided air transports for sick or injured persons. He was a firefighter with the East Brandywine Fire Company and was an Emergency Medical Technician.

Chief Friel continues to believe that community policing is the foundation for a successful police team. He promotes teamwork as the key to maintaining a strong police force and believes that being respectful and fair is what has made him such a successful police officer.

In recognition for all of Chief Friel's accomplishments and leadership, the Pennsylvania American Legion recently named him Pennsylvania Law Officer of the Year. This award is a testament to the example Chief Friel presents to other brave men and women of law enforcement, as well as a reflection of the great people he has worked with over the years. I know all my colleagues join me today in commending Chief Friel for his exemplary service and reward of accomplishment and we honor him for his ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of the residents of Valley Township and Chester County, Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATTY
ARISMENDEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patty Arismendez of Bakersfield, California, the recipient of the National Association of Letter Carriers Heroes of the Year Award on behalf of the Western Region. This award is to honor Letter Carriers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

During her 17 years with the United States Postal Service, Patty worked her way up to a Letter Carrier. She spent the last 10 years working at Branch 782 of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Bakersfield, California.

Today we honor Patty Arismendez for her heroic action. On October 14, 2006, Patty saw a toddler wandering into the middle of the street. She used her vehicle to block the traffic in this busy intersection and jumped out to save the toddler. After Patty rescued the child, she searched for her family and eventually reunited them.

Patty saved the toddler from being hit by a car or kidnapped. We recognize her bravery and appreciate her devotion to her community. Patty Arismendez is an honest, compassionate woman. I wish her continued success and good luck in all of her future endeavors.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE RE-
VISION AND EXTENSION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2761) to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2761, which revises and extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) for 15 years. I commend

Chairman FRANK and Congressman CAPUANO for their fine work in shepherding this critical legislation to the House floor. This act reminds us that the true measure of our homeland's preparedness against terrorist attack is our ability to prepare for such an attack comprehensively and that includes the insurance industry which is an essential part of our economic landscape.

Mr. Chairman, the horrendous events of September 11, 2001, tested our Nation's ability to defend itself in many ways. Along with the human and emotional toll these events took on all Americans, we noticed that not only our Government but also our private industries were not sufficiently prepared to deal with the implications of a terrorist attack. Terrorist activity since September 11, 2001, has come to prove that our enemies are becoming more agile and technologically sophisticated. There is no doubt in my mind that terrorists are targeting not only our fellow citizens but also our critical infrastructure including our financial services sector, since they are determined to undermine the United States in the most fundamental of ways.

History has shown that al Qaeda and other extremist organizations will explicitly direct their efforts against American citizens and property in an effort to inflict economic harm. According to a RAND policy brief, "there is reason to believe that al Qaeda is interested in continuing its efforts to disrupt the fiscal base of the United States by attacking its borders." If al Qaeda and others are determined to strike our financial targets, public policymakers need to examine possible financial mechanisms to mitigate these effects.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2761 is a critical and timely legislative response to the fact that after the terrorist attacks of September 11, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their policies. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, many insurance companies excluded terrorism events from their insurance policies. As a result, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act as a 3-year temporary program in 2002. The act created a Federal backstop to protect against terrorism related losses. In 2005, the measure was extended until 2007. TRIA is now set to expire at the end of this year, unless we today extend the law.

Since its enactment, TRIA has ensured the availability of affordable terrorism risk insurance in the marketplace and thereby fostered continued urban development and real estate development in the United States. While the TRIA program has successfully kept terrorism insurance affordable, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets' most recent report concluded that a private market for terrorism reinsurance is virtually nonexistent—especially with regard to nuclear, biological chemical and radiological (NBCR) acts of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, I support H.R. 2761 because it provides federal backstop for private terrorism insurance. One of the strongest features of the bill is that it comes at no cost to the American taxpayer unless there is a terrorist attack.

The security of our country can not be ensured unless we make certain that the U.S. Government works hand-in-hand with the private sector to confront terrorist threats. H.R. 2761 exemplifies this idea.

The bill before us is based on the idea that it is in the best interest of our country that the

Federal Government coordinate with insurers to provide financial compensation to insured parties for losses from acts of terrorism. It will contribute to the stabilization of the United States economy at a time of national crisis.

Mr. Chairman, I am also in support of this bill because I believe that extending TRIA for 15 years will contribute to the long-term stability of 2 critical American industries, the construction and real estate industries. The long-term stability it provides will allow both industries to engage in large-scale building projects in areas considered high-risk for terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, terrorist attacks target our country as a whole and not individual cities or States. I support the bill because it also exemplifies the critical idea that the risk from such attacks should be dealt with at the national level. H.R. 2761 should be seen as part of our broader efforts to confront and defeat the terrorist enemy.

No legislative initiative, especially in such a critical field related to the security of our country, can become really effective unless it enjoys the support of the private industry it affects.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that H.R. 2761 is broadly supported by insurance companies, insurance agents and brokers, policyholders, commercial developers, and construction companies.

Another important provision in the bill is that it extends TRIA to cover both foreign and domestic terrorism. Currently, it covers only foreign terrorism. It also adds group life insurance to the types of insurance for which terrorism insurance coverage must be made available by insurers. It also sets the "trigger" level—the size of an attack at which the Federal Government would provide aid to insurers—at \$50 million. Current law (P.L. 109–44), enacted in 2005, sets the level at \$50 million in 2006 and \$100 million in 2007. Yet another strong feature of the bill is it requires continuation of studies of the development of a private market for terrorism and risk insurance.

Mr. Chairman, I support the passage of H.R. 2761 and call on my colleagues to do likewise because I strongly believe that it will strengthen our Nation's efforts to confront the terrorist threat in a more comprehensive way and will provide long-term stability for critical American industries.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SUSAN A. DICKEY, WARREN COUNTY SURROGATE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening, Susan A. Dickey, who has served as elected Surrogate for the past seven years, will be honored for her record of dedicated service to the people of Warren County, New Jersey. I join my friends and neighbors in commending Susan for her commitment to this office.

The constitutional office of Surrogate is not a glamorous one. There aren't a lot of ribbon cuttings and photo ops to do. There aren't many big ticket items that make it to the front pages of the local papers. But, there are few elected offices that can have a greater impact

on individual lives. We come to seek the aid of the Surrogate and her office when we are in the midst of issues involving trusts, wills, estates, and probate. Our visits to the Surrogate's office are rarely on happy occasions, often following loss of a loved one. And, though winding through the confusing red tape of probate law is just about the last thing we want to do under those circumstances, Susan Dickey and her staff have done all in their power to ease the difficult burden.

Susan has sought to computerize estate processing, to make information and forms available online, and to simplify the process. She has made her office more accessible to those who are handicapped, ill, or homebound. And, she has been working with the County Office on Aging to develop a free-will program for qualified seniors—a program she first introduced as a Warren County Freeholder before she was elected to the Surrogate's Office.

Susan Dickey is a true public servant, and I commend her for her work and for the example she provides.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOLLY P. HOWARD ON BEING NAMED NATIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, Molly Parish Howard, Principal of Jefferson County High School in Louisville, Georgia, was named National High School Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I had the privilege of attending her recognition ceremony and was moved by her dedication to, and passion for, her students, her school and her community.

Dr. Howard has devoted the past 30 years of her life to the children of Jefferson County, Georgia. In one way or another, she's been walking the halls of the public schools in that area nearly all her life. Dr. Howard began her own education in the schools of Jefferson County. Just three years after her graduation from Wrens High School she returned to become one of the school system's first special education teachers.

Dr. Howard has been serving as Principal of the Jefferson County High School since 1995. When she became principal, she made it her policy that every child in her high school would receive a college preparatory education. Even with an increasingly challenging curriculum, nearly every indicator of the success of a high school has improved since Dr. Howard took that job.

Dr. Howard represents what is best about our best schools. What's more important, she brings out the best in her faculty and staff, her students, and their families. She uses innovation and creativity to inspire excellence in her teachers; she is a conscientious member of her community; and she is a friend, a mentor, and a good example to her students. She is the kind of person I'm grateful to have working on the front lines of our nation's future. I'm proud to represent her and her school, and I congratulate her on this well deserved achievement.

H.R. 1495—THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. This important legislation provides overdue authorization for hundreds of critical water projects throughout the United States including several in my district, the Fourth Congressional District of Florida. The bill authorizes 900 flood-control, navigation and environmental projects managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and will authorize \$21 billion dollars. Many of these projects are critical to the safety of our commercial and recreational ship traffic as they navigate inland waterways. I applaud the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee for completing this imperative legislation.

WAGONTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company in Chester County, PA which will dedicate its new facility and celebrate its 60th anniversary on Saturday, September 22, 2007. This fire company traces its history back to 1947 when it was housed in a single-bay fire station located on Wagontown Road and Route 340.

The original fire station was replaced in 1954 with a larger building located at 416 West Kings Highway with direct access to Route 340. It was designed and built with room for additional equipment that would be needed as the community grew. It was not only used to house the fire apparatus, but also as a meeting, banquet and fundraising facility.

In 1995, the Company decided that in order to keep up with the continuing growth in West Caln and West Brandywine Townships, an additional facility was needed. The small, single-station fire company that started in 1947 had grown into a fully operational fire and rescue company. The fleet at that time consisted of five vehicles. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 23, 2005, with site preparation and building construction beginning shortly thereafter. The building of five bays, offices and a three-hundred seat community banquet facility was then completed and the Company was able to occupy and begin working out of the new facility in September of 2006.

Over the past sixty years, the Wagontown fleet has grown to seven apparatus and the Company is led by the tireless work of Chief Jeff Benach. The Company is 100% volunteer and has been supported by donations from the community and with numerous fundraisers. The Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company has thrived due to the countless sacrifices and endless dedication of the many men and women who volunteer to support this local

treasure and to preserve and protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens.

I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Wagontown Volunteer Fire Company for all the work they do in their community. We wish them another 60 years of heroic lifesaving and honorable stewardship as they continue to keep West Caln and West Brandywine Townships safe.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DREW JENSEN

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, let us mourn the loss of an American Hero.

Just a short time ago, Captain Drew Jensen succumbed to wounds he received in Iraq.

Drew was critically wounded in combat on May 7, 2007 in the Diyala Province while serving with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment north of Baghdad.

Captain Jensen was an officer in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry—it is more commonly known as the “Stryker Brigade.”

Forty-eight young soldiers left Fort Lewis and never returned to duty. The Strykers were sent into the toughest neighborhood in Iraq. Their mission was to meet Al Qaeda on its ground and take it back.

It is with a heavy heart the Pacific Northwest welcomes home the Brigade: they served honorably; they left Iraq better than they found it, but the cost was high—the losses irreplaceable.

Captain Jensen knew from an early age he wanted to serve his country: he was a soldier that lived and died with courage, integrity, and selflessness.

As a young man he worked hard and secured for himself the opportunity to attend West Point.

After graduation in 2002, Drew approached the Army with absolute commitment.

Captain Jensen served two combat tours in Iraq—knowing that his men depended upon his willingness to lead from the front and fulfill the call of our Nation.

At home, Stacia did her best to soldier on. An Army family knows the risks of combat. She supported Drew on and off the battlefield through some of the toughest circumstances, the harshest moments any family can encounter.

I ask that we take pause: cease the frenzied activities of modernity for just a moment and reflect upon the sacrifices we are asking of young soldiers like Drew Jensen.

Drew was a casualty of war: he served with distinction, gave his last full measure of devotion, and ultimately sacrificed his life—and his family's future—to answer the call of his men in mortal combat.

Leaders are not born, they are not made—leaders such as Drew Jensen choose.

Drew saw a problem and fixed it. He saw that his men needed help, and he helped. He was a good officer that recognized the burdens of command—an American that made a choice to be a part of something larger—to live a life that mattered.

My colleagues: the legacy of Captain Drew Jensen is a lesson for us all.

Drew made a choice to serve his country; Drew made a choice to serve in Iraq; Drew made a choice to make his community a better place.

There are no words that can heal the wounds of our hearts today; Oregon is far dimmer than it was with Drew a part of our community.

Forever changed are the lives of Stacia, the Jensen Family, and the community of Damascus.

We cannot undo any of the choices that brought us to this moment here, today.

But we can recognize the courage and bravery of one of our own.

We can celebrate the life and legacy of Drew Jensen.

And we can keep his spirit alive through remembering all that he was—all that he meant—all that he believed in.

Let us renew our commitment to making this America, this Oregon, this community a place worthy of such sacrifice.

Let us begin today.

AIRSPACE REDESIGN UNFAIRLY IMPACTS MINORITY COMMUNITIES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment that I was not permitted to offer an amendment to this bill after testifying before the Rules Committee yesterday. My amendment would have addressed concerns about the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Airspace Redesign. While all of us recognize the pressing need to improve the current system in order to promote efficiency and reduce flight delays, the implementation of this particular plan will have a disproportionate negative impact on some minority communities, including the city of Elizabeth, New Jersey, which is partially located in my Congressional District. Unfortunately, our government has a history of causing minority communities to bear a disproportionate share of undesirable environmental effects, whether it is air noise, air pollution, or toxic waste dumps—these objectionable projects too often end up in poor and minority communities. In response to this injustice, Executive Order 12898, which was signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994 and reaffirmed by President Bush, aims to ensure that environmental justice is considered when federal agency decisions are made. The population of the city of Elizabeth is about 65 percent non-white, with most minorities being Hispanic or African American.

The Elizabeth community is especially alarmed about the proposed plan because under a previous procedure in the 1950s where planes “fanned out” over Elizabeth, there were three tragic airplane crashes in a very short time period—from December 1951 to February 1952.

Under the Airspace Redesign proposal, high aircraft noise exposure in the immediate vicinity of the airport increases from 53,276 residents to 100,893 residents in Union County, where the city of Elizabeth is located. It also increases from 94,407 residents to 131,916 residents in Essex County. In some neighborhoods, the decibel levels could rise to a de-

gree that the noise will be 5 times greater than it is now. These actions have caused many of us to question whether or not the FAA properly and adequately met their responsibilities under the environmental justice Executive Order. Therefore, my amendment would have stipulated that before implementing the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Redesign project, the FAA Administrator must submit a report to Congress explaining how the agency has met the requirements relating to environmental concerns in minority communities.

Needless to say, I am disappointed that the Rules Committee did not accept my amendment, but I have received assurances that Congress will keep up the pressure to ensure that the FAA meets its responsibilities to all of those who are impacted by the airspace redesign plan.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BECKMANN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Frank Beckmann upon the 35th anniversary of his distinguished broadcasting career at WJR, the “Great Voice of the Great Lakes.”

Since his broadcasting career commenced on September 11, 1972 as a WJR news reporter at the age of 22, Frank Beckmann steadily rose through the ranks and served as the station's sports director and only play-by-play announcer to cover all four Detroit sports teams at least once. Today, he stands as a beloved—in most quarters—Detroit radio personality.

Frank's status was cemented in February of 2003, when the Frank Beckmann Show debuted. Over the ensuing years, Frank's commitment to providing fair and candid news coverage has earned him a legion of fans and countless awards, which he is trying to count regardless. Faithfully carrying on the WJR tradition, the Frank Beckmann Show features on-air interviews, in-depth issue analyses, reliable business reports, and continuous sports coverage. Frank's enduring style and popularity with listeners has earned the attention of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters who awarded the Frank Beckmann Show two “Best in Class Awards,” Broadcast Personality/Team of the Year 2006 and Best News Special: 9/11 Anniversary Broadcast From New York City. The Detroit Press Club Foundation also named him the 2007 Michigan Excellence in Journalism winner and he was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. With a radio personality fans have come to know and love, Frank Beckmann's extraordinary accomplishments are well deserved.

Madam Speaker, over the years, Frank has elated audiences with his laid-back humor, probing interviews, and male pattern baldness. After 35 years of award-winning broadcasts on WJR, Frank truly is the best in his class. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank Beckmann's loyalty to his listeners, dedication to truth, and legendary contributions to talk radio, our community and our country.

VINCENT SUPPAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the leaders of the arts in my district, and someone who has dedicated his life to bringing the gift of music to countless others. Vincent Suppan was born in 1920 and grew up in West Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. He is a part of a proud family who has tirelessly led the Catasauqua Band for 100 years. Vincent's cousins conducted the band from 1907 to 1947, when he took over as conductor. This "passing of the baton" has ensured that a dedicated conductor has led

the Catasauqua Band for 100 years, a feat that reflects on the Suppan family's passion for music and love of their community.

Today, Vince is a retired associate professor of speech pathology at West Chester University. He still resides near the University, faithfully commuting over 100 miles on Wednesdays to lead rehearsals in Catasauqua. He has never lost his love of leading the Band in "run-throughs" of music from the Band's extensive library. He often regales the Band with fascinating stories from his long career. The combination of challenging sight-reading and great tales makes rehearsals a delight for all the Band members. Among the many local musicians who played with the Catasauqua Band is Ronald Demkee, now conductor of the Allentown Band. Mr. Demkee still recalls the first time he was paid

to play tuba under Vince, receiving the going rate of \$2, which was good money for a high school student at the time. Vince provided Mr. Demkee with his first opportunity to play a solo with a professional band, which is just one example of the numerous lives Mr. Suppan has touched.

The Catasauqua Band continues to this day due to the passion of one man: Vincent Suppan. Leading this band for 60 years is a testament to the dedication and hard work of Vincent, and a reflection of the passion he brings to every performance. I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating Vincent Suppan for his tireless leadership of the treasured Catasauqua Band, and for all the great work he has and continues to do for all those who love music.